

PACKERS DENY CLAIM OF TRADE COMMISSION

Independents at Hearing in Washington Dispute Findings Reported by Federal Probers.

COMPETITION IS MAINTAINED

Both in Sale of Livestock and Meats They Say Law of Supply and Demand Is Operating.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 20.—Independent packers appearing before the senate agriculture committee today challenged most of the statements of the federal trade commission on which proposals for stringent regulation of the five dominant concerns in the industry are based.

The independent representatives insisted that they were meeting and furnishing lively competition at both ends of the industry—in the purchase of livestock for their plants and in the sale of meats to the retailer—and expressed the conclusion that the law of supply and demand would serve sufficiently to protect the consumer. Their view was supplemented by that of a retail butcher, and given minor support in the appearance of a vegetable cannery representative and the head of a milk condensing business, to object to licensing provisions of the Kenyon bills which they felt would apply to their business if not changed.

Closely Questioned. Committee members, particularly Senator Lyndon, republican, Iowa, author of the regulation measure, and Senator Capper, republican of Kansas, put to the packers' representatives pointed questions bearing on the establishment of the American Institute of Packing, its Washington offices and activities, as well as entering into the subject of profits.

"Isn't the institute office here to fight any kind of regulation?" Sen. Capper asked. T. Davis Hill, who headed a delegation of independent packers of Baltimore, replied: "I'm not an officer of it," Mr. Hill said, "but I suppose they want to be on the ground to be familiar with all legislative proposals affecting the industry."

"Understand, I'm not saying they are wrong," Senator Kenyon continued, "or that there's anything wrong in their methods, but do you know about their agents and publicity men here or who is going to pay for them?"

"I suppose there will be dues assessed for that," Mr. Hill said. "That's the usual way."

Business Abnormal.

"We are now passing through a period of inflation," Mr. Hill said, in making his objection to the proposed regulation. "Prices are abnormal, business is abnormal. This is no time to regulate. Wait until we get through it and have out feet back on the ground and then see what drastic measures are necessary."

The witness said he found hogs in competition with the big packers in Kansas City and Chicago and was sure the big concerns could not control prices. Solomon Greenwald, who said his house in Baltimore dealt in only beef, asserted the same thing was true of other live stock.

Senator Hansell, democrat, Louisiana, took up the questioning from another angle.

"We've been told the big packers are going into everything," the senator quipped, "controlling the sale of some 700 other products. Do you think it would be a good thing to have them put all these other smaller men out of business and establish a monopoly in foodstuffs?"

"No, but I'd say to license the other and let the live stock industry alone," Greenwald responded.

"These are just the sort of objections that were raised to meat inspection when that law was proposed," observed Senator Kenyon.

MAN WHO DEEDED WIFE TO BE ARRAIGNED ON MONDAY

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 20.—Charles L. Collins, who deeded his wife to John D. Batchelder and later shot Batchelder, will enter his plea in the superior court on Friday. Collins' wife will not testify against him, but it is understood the district attorney will subpoena her into court for whatever psychological effect her appearance may have. The attorney who directed the love contract will be one of the important witnesses. In the past, Batchelder agreed to take care of Mrs. Collins and Collins agreed not to molest them.

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PLUMB'S RAIL PLAN ATTACKED BY ROADS

Executives Assert It Is Impracticable in Hearing Before Congressional Commerce Committee.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 20.—Railway management represented by the Association of Railway Executives today presented to congress its plan for placing the railroad business of the country upon a stable basis.

Appearing before the house interstate commerce committee, Thomas G. Clegg, lawyer, chairman of the association, commented on behalf of his organization's proposal that railroads be private corporations with no absolute guarantee of adequate services to run the roads and efficient service to the public. Both Mr. Clegg and Alfred D. Thom, counsel of the association, another witness, attacked the Plumb plan for tripartite control of the roads under government ownership as an impractical system which the American people, when fully informed, would surely reject.

Attack Plumb Plan.

Mr. Thom declared his testimony largely to an attack on the Plumb plan, asserting that its provision for retirement of private capital would deprive the railroads of one-third of the lines' book value.

This provision, he added, also would be in conflict with supreme court decisions because it provides a legislative reservation as to what values should be used in determining what the government should pay to the rail owners.

Concessions, he asserted, could make no such reservation, because the determination of value is purely a judicial question.

Wage features of the Plumb plan, Mr. Thom said might be judged by the past and present demands of all employees considered in the light of a legislative reservation as to what values should be used in determining what the government should pay to the rail owners.

Government regulation of railroads was blamed by Mr. Thom for the present condition of the lines.

CHARGES MISAPPROPRIATION

Laundry Company of Paris, Texas, Filed Suit Against Tulsa.

Alleging the defendant has wrongfully withheld from the plaintiff the sum of \$312.79 collected while an agent of the plaintiff, suit was filed in the circuit court Wednesday by the City Steam Laundry, Paris, Texas, against J. K. Milligan, principal and W. H. Terry, managing partner.

The laundry company claims in its petition that on March 26, 1917, they employed Milligan as their agent in Mount Pleasant, Texas, Terry signing the contract to guarantee proper financial settlements between the laundry company and Milligan.

The plaintiff alleges that Milligan appropriated \$112.79 to his own use, above commissions due him and that neither Milligan nor Terry had paid the amount.

China regards American accept-

Mother Will Renew Fight For Possession of Her Son

Final disposition as to the custody of four-year-old Eugene Gregory will be made in county court Thursday afternoon when the mother, Mrs. Anna Gregory, employed as a domestic at Parkview station will renew her fight for possession of the child.

When Mrs. Gregory was compelled to remain in a local hospital several weeks she left the boy with Mrs. Elizabeth Evans, 114½ South Dewey, after being discharged from the hospital. Mrs. Franka refused to deliver the child to the mother until a bill of \$47 for the child's board was paid.

OFFER IS REJECTED FOR COMPROMISE ON LEAGUE PACT

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government members of the league and that the failure of any such government to adopt the suggestions of the council of the league or to provide such military or naval forces or economical measures shall constitute a moral or legal violation of the treaty.

3.—That all domestic and political questions relating to the internal relations of government, which is a member of the league, including immigration, coastwise traffic, the tariff and commerce are to be settled in the jurisdiction of such government and are not by the covenant of the league of nations submitted in any way either to arbitration or to the consideration of the council or assembly of the league of nations, or to the decision or recommendation of any other power. If a dispute arises between parties with regard to a question other than those which are herein specifically exempted as domestic questions and it is claimed on one or the part that the question is a domestic and political question, relating to its internal affairs, then the council shall not consider or make recommendations thereon, except upon the unanimous vote of the council, other than the representatives of the disputant.

4.—There shall not be submitted to arbitration or inquiry by the assembly of the league any question which in the judgment of the United States depends upon or involves its long established policy, commonly known as the Monroe doctrine and it is preserved unaffected by any provisions of the said treaty.

In introducing the resolution in the senate, Senator Pittman requested that it be laid on the table. He announced he would call it up for consideration later in the session than it would be voted upon, even before final action was taken on the treaty.

No advice directly from the pursuit troops had been received today, China regards American accept-

ance of the Shantung provision of the peace treaty as a violation from the American policy of friendly cooperation toward the Chinese government, the senate foreign relations committee was told today by John C. Ferguson, an American and an official adviser to the Chinese president.

While not speaking officially for the Chinese government, Dr. Ferguson said he based his statement on an intimate knowledge of Chinese official opinion.

It was denied at the southern department headquarters today that General Dickman's presence near Marfa was an indication of an extensive operation in Mexico, but it was said that all military posts in the vicinity of Marfa had been ordered to cooperate with Colonel Lander.

It was also said the American cavalry would go as far south as Palomira, which is about 50 miles south of the border and 13 miles further than the troops had reached at last reports to headquarters here. Four troops of the 4th cavalry and 10 airplanes carrying machine guns are marching in the direction of the bandit's heavy rains south of the border are believed to be interfering not only with the pursuit but also with field wireless communications which is given as a reason no additional reports had been received from the pursue troops today.

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rended so far into the interior of Mexico, it was learned tonight that it was before the beginning of the war in 1915," declared J. B. Payne, manager of the local Armour & Co. branch, testifying today at the court of inquiry into prices being conducted by County Attorney Carl Monk before Judge S. F. Brown. He produced a table of figures to prove his contention. Among the prices charged by his company, he mentioned Beef Halves, 11 to 13 cents per pound; Hindquarters, 17 to 19

cents; forequarters, 8 to 10 cents; loin cuts, 12 to 15 cents; pork spare ribs, 18 cents; shoulders, 26 to 28 cents.

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